Shortage of scientists and technicians

†496. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that research work in the field of agriculture and horticulture is getting affected due to shortage of scientists and technicians in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the shortage along with the details of progress of efforts made to remove the shortage, till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The sanctioned strength of the Scientific and Technical Cadre in Indian Council of Agricultural Research is 6281 and 8191 respectively. Out of these, 156 posts of Scientists and 580 posts of the Technical Cadre have been abolished as per the restrictions imposed by the Department of Personnel and Training Office Memorandum dated 16.05.2001.

(c) The restrictions imposed by Department of Personnel and Training *vide* Office Memorandum dated 16.5.2001 for filling up of only 1/3rd of vacancies caused due to retirement.

The Ministry of Finance has allowed the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to seek approval of Cabinet Secretary through Secretary (Personnel) and Sceretary (Expenditure) for revival of 90 posts of Scientists only, subject to surrender of equivalent posts from other categories.

Integrated Dairy Development Project for Faizabad and Ambedkar Nagar

†497. SHRI BAHGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any proposal for operating integrated dairy development project in the Faizabad and Ambedkar Nagar districts;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.